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Roxbury. May 4, 1877. 187

Dear friend Stacy:

The tone of your letter, in regard to the President's southern "policy", is in perfect consonance with my feelings and sentiments, as you will see by reading the enclosed article from my pen, reviewing a letter of Dr. Eliot, of St. Louis, on this subject.

Taking a deep interest in the election of Hayes as against Tilden, from the hour of his nomination to that of the decision of the Presidential Commission, I certainly have had no disposition to prejudge him in regard to any of his plans or measures. On the contrary, he was so satisfactorily vouched for as to his integrity of character, and the sentiments he expressed in his letter of acceptance and in his inaugural address were so creditable to his heart and head, in

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the matter of protecting the rights of the freedmen equally with those of the Southern whites, that I placed great confidence in his sagacity, judgment, and impartiality of administration. But, without imputing to him any wrong intentions, and still believing he desires to be in the right, I am nevertheless constrained to say that I believe he has sacrificed the welfare and safety of the loyal men at the South, whether white or black, conceded to the "bull-dozers" of Louisiana and South Carolina all that they have been so insolently demanding, unjustly permitted 'a ruffian minority' to seize the reins of government in those states in opposition to the wishes and votes of an unquestionable majority, and by withdrawing the troops has practically disfranchised the poor, defenceless colored people, and left them to the "tender mercies"

of their old oppressors.

I really think that the President is without vision, victimized by an amiable credulity, ignorant of the Southern character, and not the man for the hour. If this were not so, he would not be pursuing a course that fills with gladness and exultation the entire mass of unrepentant Southern traitors, and gives fresh inspiration to the Satanic democracy at the North. He promises, indeed, to change his course if he finds it will not work as he desires; but what can he do? He cannot send any Federal soldiers to the South, no matter what the treatment of its loyal population may be, and all his fine promises will end in impotency.

I am sorry to hear what you say about P. P. Is it possible that he entertains such views as those you refer to?

Cordially yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

P.S. I have taken my passage for England in the steamship Algeria, that will leave New York on the 23d inst.; & be absent about three months and a half.

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